

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on February 27, 2006

Embassy Suites Hotel, Temecula Valley Wine Country

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present

Kevin Andrew
Dennis Atkinson
Edgar "Pete" Downs
Ben Drake

Hugh (Wally) Ewart
Brad Lange
Frank Leeds
Al Rossini

Bob Steinhauer
Jim Unti

Members Absent

Greg Coleman
Steve McIntyre

Dana Merrill
Herb Schmidt

Paul Wulf

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present

Kevin Andrew
Ted Batkin
Robert Crudup
Ben Drake
Scott Hudson
Nancy Irelan

Drew Johnson
Richard Mounts
Steve Nation
Steven Pavich
Corky Roche
Rick Roush

Beth Stone-Smith
John Snyder
Kim Waddell
Robert Wample
Dave Whitmer

Members Absent

Larry Bezark

Joe MacIrvine

Craig Weaver

OTHER ATTENDEES

Mike Babineau
Alan Bennett
Jerry Campbell
Cindy Davis
Nat DiBuduo
Tom Esser

George Gutman
Craig Hanes
David Morgan
Greg Morris
Cathy Neville
Stacie Oswalt

Steve Schaffer
Roger Spencer
Judy Stewart-Leslie
Bob Wynn

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Pete Downs and Task Force Chair Kevin Andrew called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board and the PD Advisory Task Force. A quorum was present for both the Board and the Task Force. Self introductions followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Pete Downs welcomed everyone to the meeting. Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner John Snyder welcomed everyone to Riverside County and Temecula and gave a brief overview of the grape industry in Riverside County.

Bob Wynn announced that Bob Steinhauer had resigned from the Board and Bob Webster had resigned from the Task Force. He expressed appreciation to both of them for their service, and said certificates of appreciation had been prepared for them. Bob also reported that Rick Roush had been appointed to replace Bob Webster on the Task Force.

Bob Wynn reported on the Court of Appeals ruling against the Pierce's Disease Control Program's Environmental Impact Report. The deadline for CDFA to appeal the ruling is March 8.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the Board and the Task Force to approve the minutes of the joint PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force meeting held in Monterey on November 7-8, 2005.
- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the Board to approve the minutes of the PD/GWSS Board conference call held on January 4, 2006.

NEXT MEETING

It was decided that the next joint meetings of the PD/GWSS Board and the PD Advisory Task Force would be held in Sacramento on May 16, 2006 and August 4, 2006.

BOARD AND TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

(See Welcome and Opening Remarks)

After a brief discussion, it was recommended by Kevin Andrew and other members of the Advisory Task Force to add an additional member. A vote was taken and they passed unanimously the following motion and respectfully recommended the following:

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the Advisory Task Force to recommend adding Judy Stewart-Leslie, Manager of the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District, to the Task Force.

APPROVED NURSERY TREATMENT PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

Greg Morris reported the results from the 2005 season of the approved nursery treatment pilot project. The number of shipments received and released totaled 54, with no viable egg masses in any of the shipments.

Three representatives from the nursery industry (George Gutman of Bordiers, and Mike Babineau and Tom Schaffer of Village Nursery) described their programs for maintaining nursery shipments free of GWSS.

FISCAL UPDATE

Bob Wynn gave an update on the 2005-06 Board and Program budgets. A budget summary and report was provided (see attachments). Board Treasurer Jim Unti said he anticipated the PD/GWSS assessment due from the 2005 harvest would be approximately \$5,282,000.

PUBLIC OUTREACH RESULTS ON RFP/BID AWARDS

Jerry Campbell and Roger Spencer reported on the results of the RFP bid for the public outreach and education contract. The award went to Brown-Miller Communications.

PIPRA UPDATE

Alan Bennett provided an update on the PIPRA project. They have collected and analyzed PD/GWSS literature and associated patents and created a database that will be ready for testing soon.

RESEARCH PROGRAM UPDATE

Tom Esser reported on the status of the research program. He discussed the joint CDFA-UC RFP, the research director RFP, and USDA-ARS indirect costs. The Plant Pathology Consortium and the participation of the table grape industry in research funding were also discussed.

Joint RFP: There were 63 proposals received in response to the joint RFP. These will be reviewed by ad hoc reviewers, panels, and committees before being brought to the Board for its funding recommendation.

Research Director RFP: Bids are due on March 30, with oral presentations scheduled for late April. The RFP is being widely advertised.

USDA-ARS Indirect Costs: ARS wants to include indirect cost charges on any research contracts they receive from the CDFA PD/GWSS Board. CDFA has pointed out this is against the ARS policy to not charge indirect costs on contracts with nonprofit organizations.

Plant Pathology Consortium: Pete Downs reported that he and Steve McIntyre have been participating on the Plant Pathology Consortium, a collaboration of researchers and representatives from the grape, citrus, and almond industries. A group went to Washington, DC and met with USDA officials concerning it. The Board may see requests for funding some of the projects being developed.

Table Grape Research Funding: Judy Stewart-Leslie spoke about the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District. The district is fairly new, and is interested in participating in funding research.

Dave Whitmer mentioned that the Napa County Winegrape Pest Control District is looking at expanding its focus to include other invasive pests, such as vine mealybug.

NATIONAL GRAPE AND WINE INITIATIVE

Nancy Ireland reported on the National Grape and Wine Initiative (NGWI). She said it was formed to create a common vision and meet the needs of the U.S. grape and wine industry.

PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE

Nursery Update: Greg Morris reported on the number of nursery shipments and rejections. He also reported that Arizona has proposed a quarantine on GWSS.

Rapid Response Program: Roger Spencer provided an update on rapid response activities. The program has been successful at reducing GWSS numbers and achieved eradication in Chico (Butte County) and Cupertino (Santa Clara County). Viable GWSS egg masses were

found recently on some newly-planted trees at Pebble Beach in Monterey County. This new find is being responded to and investigated. The Board and Task Force asked to be kept apprised.

Areawide Projects Update: Beth Stone-Smith reported on the areawide projects in Kern, Riverside, Tulare, and Ventura counties. The projects are running smoothly, although Ventura is presenting some challenges in terms of grower participation.

Biocontrol Update: David Morgan gave an update on biocontrol activities. There are several insects in production, including *Gonatocerus. ashmendi*, *G. fasciatus*, *G. morilli*, and *G. triguttatus*. *Anagrus epos* is being reared on GWSS and beet leafhoppers. They are developing new rearing systems with Roger Leopold of the USDA. Over 1.25 million insects have been released to date, in 13 counties and at 50 release sites.

Pierce's Disease Research Symposium: Tom Esser reported on the PD Research Symposium for this coming December. Both Marriott's in the San Diego area are unavailable, so we are looking at other hotels in San Diego and other locations in southern California.

OTHER ITEMS

None.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pete Downs adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.